Members of Lok Sabha was announced by the Hon'ble Speaker of Lok Sabha in the house on 26th February, 1997. Consequent to this decision, LPG priority coupons have not been issued to Members of Lok Sabha from 1st April, 1997.

Under the revised Tatkal Scheme, any person can avail the LPG connection from any LPG distributor immediately on deposit of one time non-refundable amount of Rs. 4000/- alongwith the usual security.

(c) Does not arise, in view of (a) and (b) above.

[Translation]

Privatisation of Inland Waterways

1818. SHRI SATYA DEO SINGH :
KUMARI UMA BHARATI :
SHRI SHYAM LAL BANSHIWAL :

Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state :

(a) whether any proposal is under consideration of the Government to attract the private companies to invest in the Inland Waterways sector;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the date by which final decision is likely to be taken in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (SHRI T.G. VENKATRAMAN) : (a) to (c) The detailed policy guidelines for IWT sector including encouragement of privat sector participation in Inland Waterways Transport sector are under finalisation. As such, presently, no firm indication about time is possible to be indicated.

Delhi-Jaipur N.H.

1819. SHRI GIRDHARI LAL BHARGAVA : Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state :

(a) whether the construction work of four lane on Jaipur-Delhi N.H. has been completed;

(b) if not, the names of the sections where it is lying incomplete and reasons for delay; and

(c) the time by which the above work is likely to be completed?

THE MINISTER OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (SHRI T.G. VENKATRAMAN) : (a) to (c) Construction of 4 laning of National Highway No. 8 (Delhi-Jaipur Section) is as under :-

(i)	Delhi to Gurgaon (km 36.63)	100%
(ii)	Kotputii (km. 162.5) to Achrol (km. 231.00)	98.5%
(iii)	Achrol (km. 231.00) to Jaipur (km. 263.00)	100%

The work of 4 laning from Gurgaon (km. 36.63) to Kotputli (km. 162.5) is in progress under Asian Development Bank Loan Assistance Programme and is targetted for completion by March, 2001.

[English]

Reservation in Minority Colleges

1820. SHRI P.C. THOMAS : Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Supreme Court verdict to give 50 per cent seats in colleges run by minority colleges to students of that community is being implemented;

(b) whether this right has been approved by the Government;

(c) if so, whether this verdict is being followed in colleges in Delhi; and

(d) if so, the details of students applied, minorities amongst them in various courses in colleges of Delhi University and the number of students from minority communities selected?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI MUHI RAM SAIKIA): (a) to (d) The Judgement of the Supreme Court rendered in St. Stephenes' College case, permits an institution covered under Article 30(1) of the Constitution to admit upto fifty per cent students of the relevant minority. As the right flows from a Constitutional provision as interpreted by the Court the question of Government approving such an arrangement does not arise - the law declared by the Supreme Court is the law of the land in terms of Article-141 of the Constitution. As this facility is available only to institution enjoying protection of Article-30, the question of its application to Colleges, generally, does not arise.

[Translation]

Reservation to Backward Classes

1821. SHRI RAM TAHAL CHAUDHARY : Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have made any efforts to provide 27 percent reservation to the backward classes in the educational institutions;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI MUHI RAM SAIKIA): (a) to (c) The question of providing 27 percent